

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following sentence before the first line:

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/606,006, filed June 29, 2000, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 12 and ending at line 19 of page 12, as follows:

In other embodiments, the connection between the arm portion 22 and extension arm 34 may be configured so that the arm portion 22 is adjustable on the extension arm 34. In such [[a]] configurations, the arm portion or extension arm might include two parallel slots for a connector so that the arm distance may be adjusted.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 14 and ending at line 7 of page 15, as follows:

In certain embodiments, particularly those with sample wells having relatively small volumes, it may be desirable to place a thin compliant cover (not shown) between central cover portion 152 and the top of sample well tray 208. An example of a suitable compliant cover is disclosed in the specification and figures (Figs. 11-13) of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/499,408 09/496,408, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein. The compliant cover typically includes detection holes aligned with each of the sample wells 210 of the sample well tray. The compliant cover may assist in evenly distributing the downward force imparted by the cover onto the sample well

tray. In embodiments with a compliant cover, it may be helpful to further provide a boss or rib (not shown) on the top surface 28 of the main body portion 20 of sample well tray holder 12 for engaging with the bottom surface of outer cover portion 154 when the outer cover portion 154 is lowered relative to the central cover portion 152. An example of a suitable boss or rib to be used in conjunction with the compliant cover is disclosed in the specification and figures (Figs. 11-13) of co-pending U.S. Application No.

~~09/499,408~~ 09/496,408, the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

The downward movement of the outer cover portion 154 results in the outer cover portion 154 pressing downward on the main body portion 20 of sample tray holder 12 so that the upper surface of the floor portion 30 of the sample tray holder will become spaced from the bottom surface 212 of the sample well tray 208. This spacing between the sample well tray and the surface of the floor portion of the sample tray holder isolates the sample well tray 208 from the spring force generated by the springs 40 of the urging mechanism. In certain embodiments, this configuration assists in eliminating the upward force of the springs 40 from the sample tray in order to reduce the amount of volume loss due to bending of the sample tray.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 18 and ending at line 6 of page 19, as follows:

In the embodiment of Figs. 1-9, helical spring 84 is positioned concentric to the rotational axis 50 and surrounds a portion of the length of the spline shaft 54. A bottom annular stop member 86 is positioned on an ~~opposite~~ end of the spline shaft 54 ~~[[than]]~~ opposite from the cylindrical stop member 80. The bottom annular stop member 86 is

provided on the spline shaft 54 as shown in Fig. 3, and is in the shape of a disk with an inside bore mating with the outer surface of the spline shaft 54. In the embodiment shown, the annular stop member also includes a counterbore 88 on the top surface thereof for engaging an outer periphery of the bottom portion of the helical spring 84. The counterbore assists in ~~provide~~ providing a reliable securement of the bottom end of the helical spring. Likewise, the bottom surface 90 of the extension arm 34 includes a counterbore 92 for engaging an outer periphery of the top end of the helical spring 84.